

**Senate Transportation Committee**

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Monroe County Commissioner Jason Sheppard

Mr. Chairman and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today in regards to House Bills 5125 & 5126.

- As a County Commissioner, most of the constituent calls that I field are road complaints. The general public has a disconnect between county boards and road commissions.
- The road commission is just another layer of government that sets duplicate services, and with the new tome of Michigan government, eliminating layers of government should be priority.
- This move will make the dollars that go to road projects increase by eliminating the layers of duplicate services in local government. In Monroe County alone, we can save around \$1.3 million which could go into road repairs and projects.
- This move is not new to the state - Macomb and Wayne Counties are already running their road commissions in this manner.
- Another positive aspect of this legislation is there will be more input from different areas of the county. Because of the nature of multiple county commissioners, all areas of the county will be continuously monitored by their respective commissioners.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.